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August 12, 2005

VIA ECFS

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch Federal Communications Commission Office of the Secretary 445 12th Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Ex Parte Communications in CS Docket 97-80.

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On August 11, 2005, a delegation of the Cable Working Group of the Video Division Board of the Consumer Electronics Association ("CEA"), consisting of Joe Forler, Manager, Software Development Research & Development, TTE Corporation; John Godfrey, Vice President, Government & Industry Affairs, Pioneer North America, Inc.; Adam Goldberg, Director, Television Standards & Policy Development, Sharp Laboratories of America, Inc.; Julie Kearney, Senior Director and Regulatory Counsel, CEA; Brian Markwalter, Vice President, Technology, CEA; Jim Morgan, Director & Counsel, Government & Industry Affairs, Sony Electronics Inc.; and Paul Thomsen, Director, Design/Technology and Standards, Hitachi Home Electronics (America), Inc., all accompanied by the undersigned on behalf of CEA, met with representatives of the Media Bureau. The subject was the current and future role of CableCARDS in the competitive availability of navigation devices and in the overall DTV Transition, and the challenges faced in improving the reliability, ease of use, and system support of CableCARD-reliant devices in consumers' homes.

The delegation reviewed the challenges to achieving systematic and predictable support for CableCARD-reliant devices on the large variety of local cable systems, despite the good faith efforts and cooperation extended by a number of cable operators and their vendors. They emphasized the urgency of achieving high levels of consistency and reliability at this time, especially in light of the importance of the CableCARD as a potentially attractive feature for mid-size and smaller TV receivers bearing DTV tuners. Based on experience to date, they made the point that the most efficient way to assure systematic, reliable support for competitive devices is through common reliance by both cable operators' set top boxes and competitive devices on the same conditional access technologies.

This letter is being provided to your office in accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Federal Communications Commission rules. A copy of this letter has been delivered by e-mail to the parties listed below.

Very truly yours,

Robert S. Schwartz

Robert S. Schwartz

cc: Steve Broeckaert
Rick Chessen
Donna Gregg
Bill Johnson
Mike Lance
Natalie Roisman

John Wong